

Practitioner's Docket No. 1001-026RE

PATENT

**REISSUE APPLICATION DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
(BY INVENTORS)**

DECLARATION BY THE INVENTORS

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name, I believe I am an original, first and joint inventor of the subject matter that is described and claimed in letters patent number 6,321,793, granted on November 27, 2003, and for which invention I solicit a reissue patent on the invention entitled **BLADDER SYSTEM FOR REINFORCING A PORTION OF A LONGITUDINAL STRUCTURE**, the specification of which is attached hereto.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR
(37 C.F.R. § 1.175)**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

In compliance with this duty, there is attached an information disclosure statement in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98.

PRIORITY CLAIM

I do not claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent. No such applications have been filed.

**STATEMENT OF INOPERATIVENESS
OR INVALIDITY OF ORIGINAL PATENT
(37 C.F.R. § 1.175)**

That I believe the original patent to be partly inoperative or invalid by reason of (37 C.F.R. § 1.175(a)(1)):

Applicants believe the original patent to be partly inoperative or invalid by reason of the applicants claiming more than they had the right to claim in certain respects, and less than they had a right to claim in other respects. Claims 1-22 as claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,033,300 are pending and claims 23-44 are newly added. The basis for this amendment is to narrow the subject matter of the claims as filed and to present new claims broader than the original issued claims. See 37 C.F.R. 1.175(a).

More specifically, issued claims 1 through 22 are susceptible to interpretations by a person skilled in the art that might render certain claims invalid as anticipated by one or more of the recently discovered prior art references cited in the accompanying information disclosure statement. For example, in view of FR 2,539,693, one skilled in the art may interpret one or more claims as lacking novelty. Assuming this to be true for present purposes, applicants would have claimed more than they were entitled to claim in the patent. In particular, applicants believe it was in error not to clarify in the issued claims 1 and 17 that a flexible barrier is inserted

during initial vehicle assembly, in contrast with subsequent processing steps, and to identify heat as the activator for expansion of a reinforcement material.

In addition certain distinguishing features disclosed in the specification erroneously were not explicitly recited in the issued claims. In particular, recitation of the structures of certain species of the specification erroneously were not included in the claims.

The present proposed claims (as set forth in the attached preliminary amendment) are thus in the nature of narrowing amendments that would limit the scope of the claims in certain respects and more precisely define over the prior art. The present proposed claims, however, might be regarded as broadening the issued claims, to the extent that applicants hereby sets forth their intention to broaden the claims by this reissue application, whether by the present amendment, in later amendments or both.

If this reissue application matures into an allowable reissue patent, Applicants hereby conditionally offer to surrender issued patent 6,321,793, granted on November 27, 2003.

The errors listed above, which are being corrected, up to the time of the filing of this reissue declaration arose without any deceptive intention on the part of the applicants. (37 C.F.R. § 1.175(a)(2).

POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following practitioner(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Eric M. Dobrusin
Scott A. Chapple
James M. McPherson

Registration No. 33,867
Registration No. 46,287
Registration No. 53,306

I hereby appoint the practitioner(s) associated with the Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

AUTHORIZATION OF ATTORNEYS TO ACCEPT AND FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVE

The undersigned to this declaration and power of attorney hereby authorize(s) the U.S. Attorney(s) named herein to accept and follow instructions from:

Mark L. Fischer
Executive Vice President
L&L Products, Inc.
160 McLean Drive
Romeo, MI 48065

as to any actions to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney(s) and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the person(s) from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney(s) will be so notified by the undersigned.

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

Customer No.: 25215

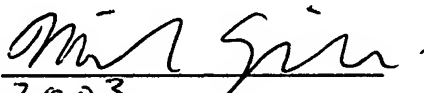
(248) 593-9900

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.


SIGNATURES BY THE INVENTORS

Full name of sole or first inventor: Michael J. Czaplicki

Inventor's signature 
Date 11/13/2003
Country of Citizenship: US
Residence: Rochester, MI

Post Office Address: 1035 Pointe Place
Rochester, MI 48307

Full name of second joint inventor: Thomas L. Coon

Inventor's signature 
Date 11/13/03
Country of Citizenship: US
Residence: Lapeer, MI

Post Office Address: 3284 Merwin Rd.
Lapeer, MI 48446

Practitioner's Docket No. 1001-026RE

PATENT

ASSENT BY ASSIGNEE FOR FILING OF REISSUE APPLICATION

This is part of the application for a reissue patent filed herewith based on the original patent identified as follows:

Name of Patentee: L&L PRODUCTS, INC.
Patent Number: 6,321,793
Date Patent Issued: Nov. 27, 2001
Title of Invention: BLADDER SYSTEM FOR REINFORCING A PORTION OF A LONGITUDINAL STRUCTURE

I am an assignee owning an undivided interest to the above original patent.

I assent to the accompanying application for reissue.

Attached is a "Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) – Establishing Right of Assignee to Take Action."

L&L PRODUCTS, INC.



Signature of person signing for assignee

Date: 11/12/03

Mark F. Fischer
Executive Vice President

Express Mail No. EL 991589297 US

Practitioner's Docket No. 1001-026RE

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No.: 6,321,793

Issue Date: Nov. 27, 2001

Inventor: Czaplicki et al.

Title: BLADDER SYSTEM FOR REINFORCING A PORTION OF A LONGITUDINAL STRUCTURE

Mail Stop Reissue

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b)—
ESTABLISHING RIGHT OF ASSIGNEE TO TAKE ACTION**

1. The assignee of the entire right, title and interest hereby seek to take action in the PTO in this matter.

IDENTIFICATION OF ASSIGNEE

2. Name of assignee: L&L Products, Inc.
Type of assignee: Corporation

PERSON AUTHORIZED TO SIGN

3. Name of person authorized to sign on behalf of assignee: Mark Fischer
Title of person authorized to sign: Executive Vice President

I, the person signing below, state that I am empowered to sign this statement on behalf of the assignee.

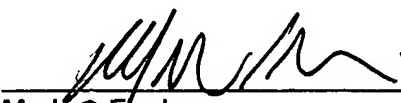
BASIS OF ASSIGNEE'S INTEREST

Ownership by the assignee is established as follows:

A.

1. An assignment from the inventors of the matter identified above, which was recorded in the PTO at Reel 010867, Frame 0918.

Date: 11/13/03


Mark F. Fischer
Executive Vice President
L&L Products, Inc.
160 McL an Drive
Rom o, MI 48065